

# SELECT BOARD, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting – Tuesday, December 16, 2025

**A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON OUR TOWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL. YOU CAN VISIT [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@GEORGETOWNME](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@GEORGETOWNME) TO VIEW THAT RECORDING.**

Ms. Ee **called** the meeting **to order** at 6:01 PM.

There was no **public comment** at the outset of the meeting.

There were no **items added to the agenda**.

There was one **scheduled appointment**, at 6:05pm, a Presentation by Gert-Paul Walter in favor of billing for EMS Services. For a full recording of this presentation please visit our YouTube Channel. A copy of the presentation is also appended to these minutes. The Select Board made clear that this conservation would be ongoing.

The following items of **correspondence** were provided:

- Office of U.S. Senator Angus King – Funding Updates
- Office of State Senator Denise Tepler – Legislative Update
- Maine Emergency Management – Update re: BRICS Pending Grants
- Funding Request: Sweetser\* (noted to serve 23 Georgetown residents; further information to be provided)

There was no **old business**.

The lone item of **new business** was approval on portions of the 2026–27 Budget Memorandum. The Select Board reviewed and finalized the budget memorandum, adjusting deadlines for committee submissions and designating board liaisons for each budget area. Mary and Tyler will serve as placeholders for the new board member to be elected in February. The board reached consensus on the document and no motion was required.

The **Town Administrator** gave a brief **Update**:

- Two new abatement applications have been received, and these will be addressed at the upcoming Board of Assessors meeting.
- The Peterson appeal is scheduled for January 22, 2026, and will include both a property site visit and a court hearing.
- Construction of the Higgins Mountain emergency communications tower is currently underway, and completion is anticipated in the spring.
- Town office and transfer station will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day; however, the transfer station will be open until 12:00 PM on New Year's Eve.
- The TOPMBB and Conservation Commission have coordinated regarding the location and forms for the tennis court, and a possible memorandum of understanding is currently being considered.
- Efforts to promote transparency are ongoing, with meeting packets being posted on the website and documents made available upon request.
- Two candidates have taken out nomination papers for the special election to be held on February 17, and a candidates night would be scheduled.

The **Finance Director** gave a brief **Update**:

- A tax anticipation note will not be needed, and the bank has been notified of this decision.
- The audit fieldwork has been completed, and tax revenues are currently being received by the town.

- Preparations for the fiscal year 2026–27 budget are underway, and the FAC committee has met to discuss the related timelines and processes.
- Donation payments are being processed as tax receipts are received by the finance department.
- The interest rate for overdue taxes has been corrected to 7.5 percent, in accordance with the updated maximum rate.

The **Fire Chief** gave a brief **Update**:

- The Fire Chief reported that there was an incident involving battery explosions in the tanker truck; fortunately, no one was injured, and the issue has been resolved.
- Four new members are joining the fire department, and they have begun their training.
- The current call volume for the department is slightly lower than in recent years, with a total of 139 runs recorded to date.
- The fire department will continue to operate throughout the holiday season.
- A recent holiday event was held at the community center, and the department expressed gratitude to all volunteers and staff for their contributions.

With no **executive session** required, a motion to **adjourn** was made at 7:06 PM, seconded, and approved.

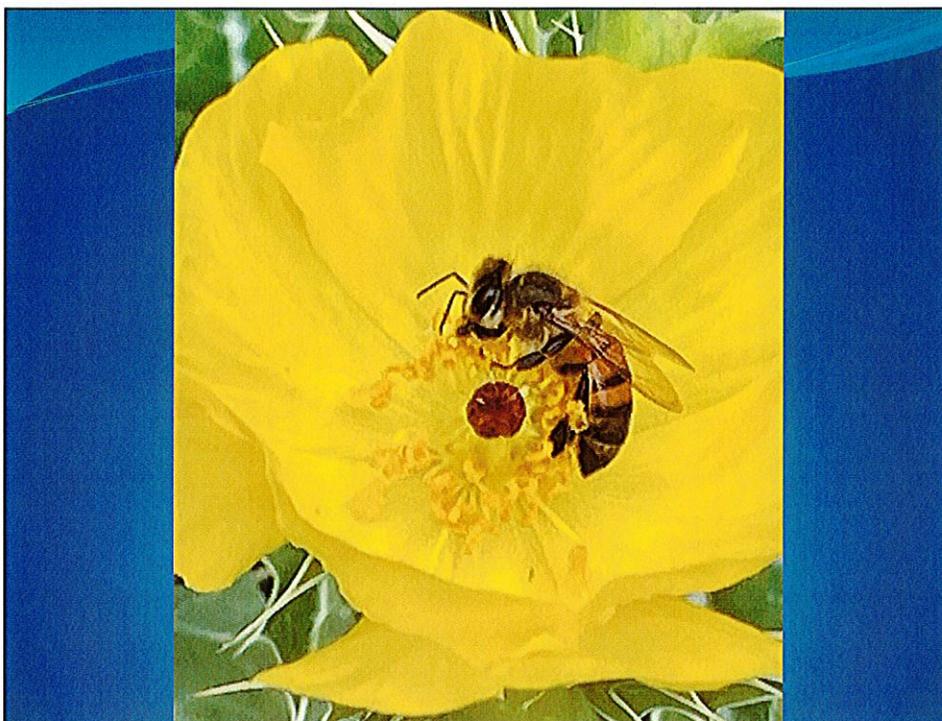
# Georgetown Select Board meeting December 16, 2025

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## Proposal

- Georgetown bill insurance companies for all patients transported by the Fire Department

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## Key Concept

- Georgetown needs to *stop subsidizing insurance companies* at the cost of our taxpayer dollars

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## My Credentials

- My wife and I moved to Georgetown 2 years ago and are permanent residents. West Bath house for 23 years
- Board Certified in Emergency Medicine and have been practicing for over 40 years
- National Best Poster Presentation award regarding an EMS issue
- Chair of St Mary's ED in Lewiston for 8 years. Co-chair of United Ambulance Service in Lewiston.
- Member Maine EMS Physicians Advisory Board those 8 years
- Medical Director of 7-14 EMS services around Emerson Hospital, Concord, MA for over 25 years. Both BLS and ALS

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## How this will work

- Call to 911 ->
- GFD responds ->
- No transport (wellness check, MVC with no injury, etc)
- No bill generated

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## How this will work

- Call to 911 ->
- GFD responds ->
- Patient is transported to Mid-Coast Hospital (an injury or illness that doesn't require advanced EMS care)
- The patient's insurance company is billed

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## How this will work

- Call to 911 ->
- FD responds ->
- Patient serious or critical ->
- Rendezvous with ALS service ->
- Patient transported to MidCoast, etc
- The patient's insurance company is billed for both GFD and ALS services

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## How this will work

- The patient's insurance company info will need to be obtained and recorded by GFD
- This is often done in the ED as the hospital collects all this information
- Occasionally GFD may need to collect this info from the patient directly

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## How this will work

- ***IMPORTANT:*** Only the patient's insurance company will be billed
- There will be no secondary billing of the patient for remainder of what insurance doesn't pay
- Nor will a patient who doesn't have insurance be billed directly

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## How this will work

- The patient should NEVER be sent a bill from Georgetown
- If a patient inadvertently gets a bill, they should speak to the town office or the GFD\*

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## Background

- Georgetown FD currently responds to around 175 calls per year
- Of those about 110 patients are actually transported to the hospital

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## Background

- In Massachusetts BLS runs are typically charged around \$2,500 per run
- In addition, mileage is \$50/mile
- But, GFD currently operates at a First Responder level, not BLS (yet)
- Average charges overall in Maine may be lower

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## Background

- The insurance companies will need to be billed.
- Billing is a specialty, so the easiest way for Georgetown to do this would be as an add on to one of the other towns in the area.
- Billing charges for smaller services are typically 8-10% of collections

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## Background

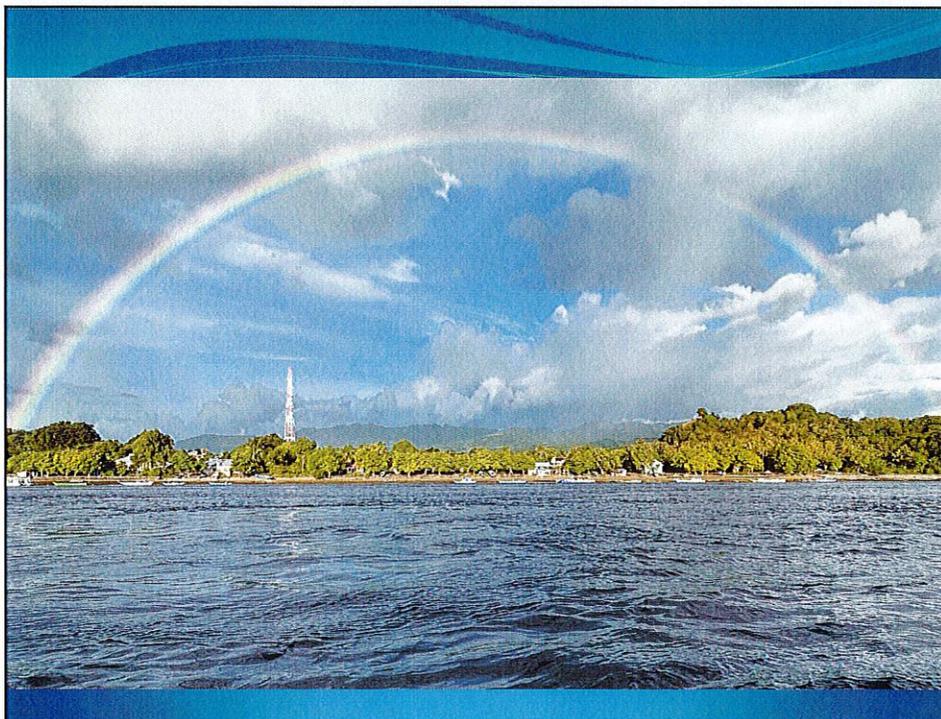
- Georgetown taxpayers currently pay about \$350,000/year to fund the Fire Department
- Currently GFD gets between \$40,000 and \$70,000 directly each year from donors

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# Background

- Actual \$ received are difficult to estimate and will change somewhat year to year because we have a lot of summer visitors along with permanent residents with a wide range of insurance types.
- The \$2500 per run + mileage is the gross charge, and most insurances only pay a portion of the total billed.

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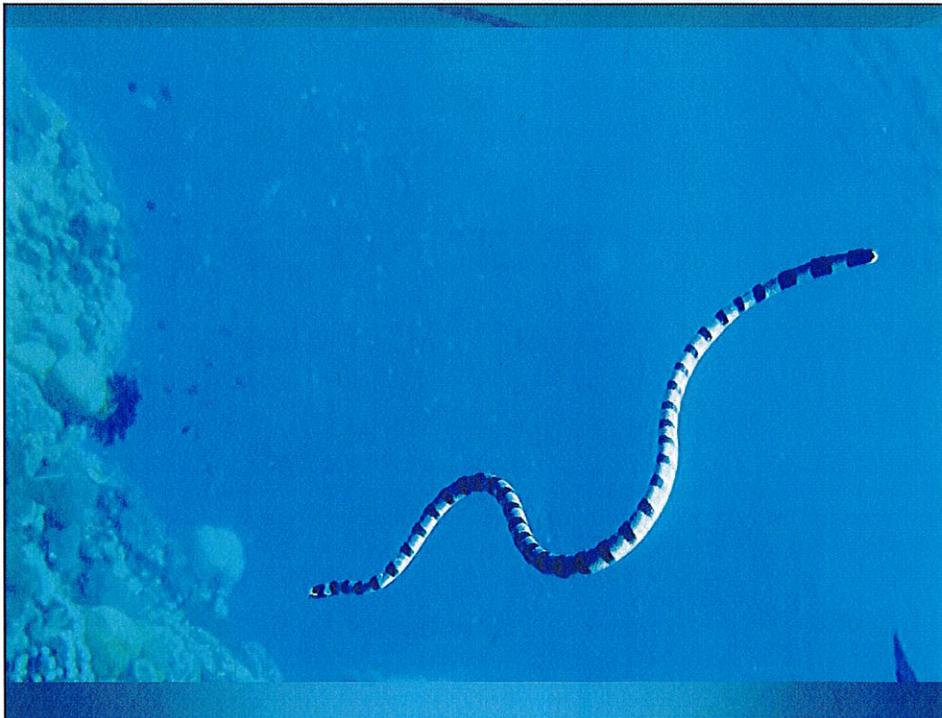


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## Benefits

- Collected \$ would go to the town, rather than padding the insurance companies' bottom line.
- Could be used to pay for some of the GFD services and/or decrease the taxes that need to be collected.

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## Possible Issues

- More work for GFD EMS – yes. We would need to verify insurance information.
- Have to find someone (in another town) that would do the billing.

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## Possible Issues

- People afraid to call 911 because they believe they would be getting a bill. This issue has been raised in the past. This is an education issue, as there shouldn't be any payments expected from patients.

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## Possible Issues

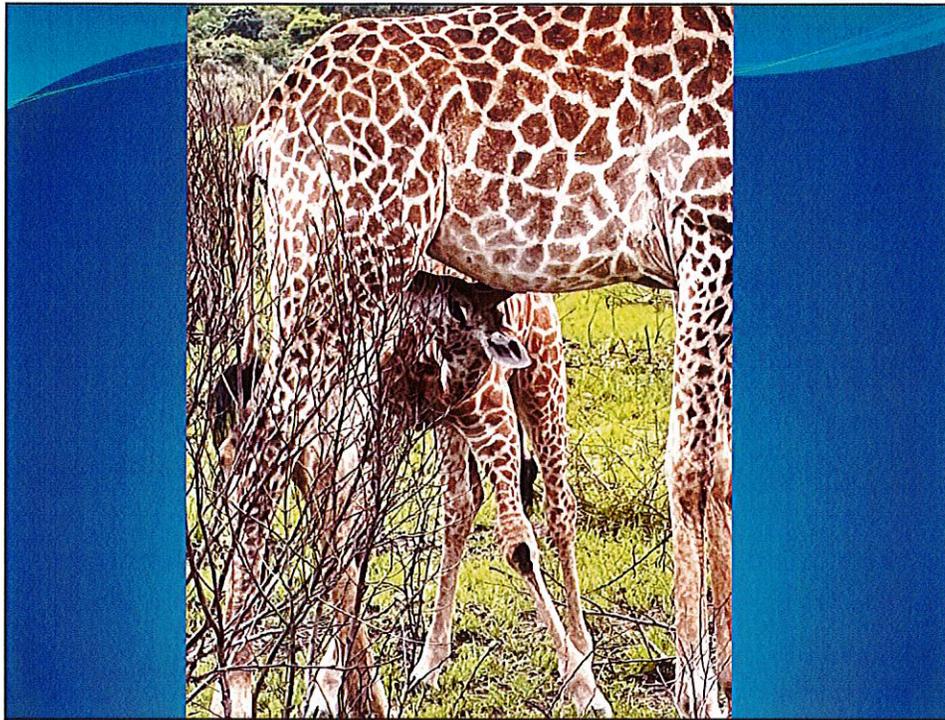
- Lower \$ donated directly to GFD
- The money GFD currently gets each year from donors may possibly decrease

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## Possible Issues

- This will be a significant change to the way Georgetown has maintained its Fire Department
- There are multiple steps to getting this implemented, up to and including having the proposal passed at the annual Town Meeting.
- Lots of education for residents will need to occur

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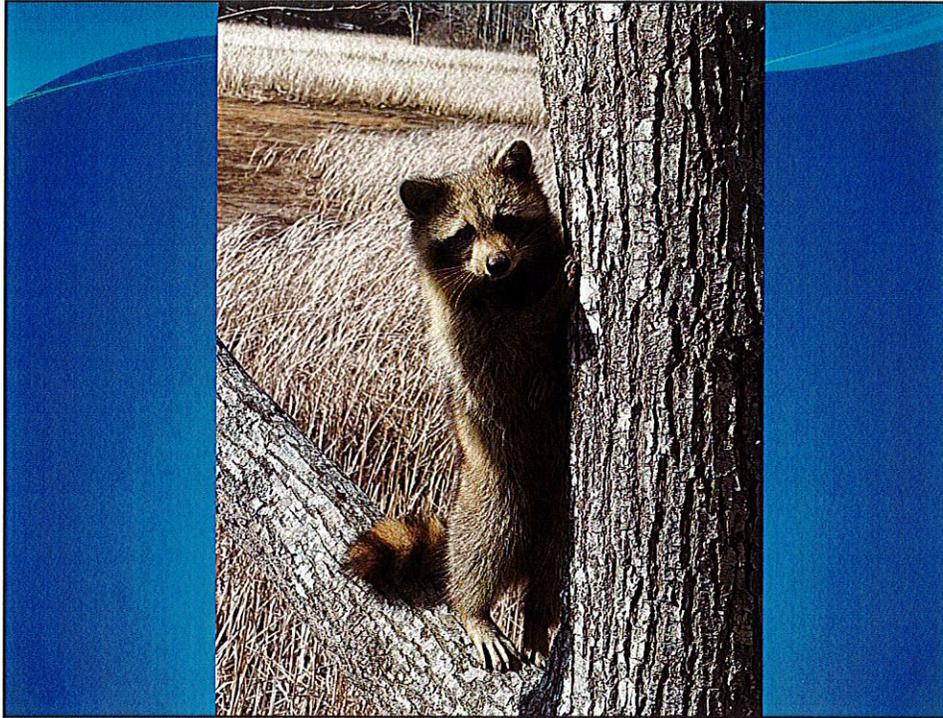


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## Summary

- Georgetown should bill insurance companies of patients transported to the hospital by GFD.
- Patients are ***NEVER*** to be directly billed/charged.
- We will need to educate people thoroughly.
- ***Let's stop subsidizing insurance companies!***

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